

Peter Janney – “JFK & Mary Meyer: Relationship as Redemption”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRVUN7pw6Vw> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRVUN7pw6Vw>)

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The Future of Freedom Foundation is pleased to announce one of the most fascinating, important, and relevant conferences in our 27-year history.

Entitled “The National Security State and JFK,” the conference was held on Saturday, June 3, 2017, at the Dulles Airport Marriott in Northern Virginia.

Peter Janney has been a practicing psychologist, educator, and consultant for over 35 years. He is the author of *Mary’s Mosaic: The CIA Conspiracy to Murder John F. Kennedy, Mary Pinchot Meyer, and Their Vision for World Peace* (3rd edition, 2016), which details his many years of investigation into Washington’s most famous unsolved murder of Mary Meyer. The book was the general non-fiction winner of the 2012 Hollywood Book Festival and received honorable mentions in the 2012 N.E. Book Festival and the 2012 London Book Festival. Hollywood producer and director Oliver Stone, who directed the movie JFK, called the book “a fascinating story” and said that “Peter Janney’s unsparing analysis moves us closer to a reckoning.” A graduate of Princeton, where he studied American history under Martin Duberman, Janney earned a doctoral degree in psychology at Boston University in 1981. He currently resides by the sea in Beverly, Massachusetts.

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[Music] Oh Meyer and their vision for world peace if you buy the book which I highly recommend it is a true-life murder mystery and page-turner once you start reading it you will not be able to put it down be sure you buy the final edition the third edition because it provides a real up-to-date recap recapitalization of what he's talking about in the book it details the mint his many years of investigation into Washington's most famous unsolved murder of Mary Mayer the book was the general nonfiction winner of the 2012 Hollywood Book Festival and received honorable mentions in the 2012 North East Book Festival and the 2012 London Book Festival Hollywood producer and director Oliver Stone who directed the movie JFK called the book a fascinating story and said they quote Peter Janney's unsparing analysis moves us closer to a reckoning a graduate of Princeton where he studied American history under martyr Martin Duberman Jenny earned a doctorate degree in psychology at Boston University in 1981 he currently resides by the sea in Beverly Massachusetts the title of his talk is JFK and Mary Mayer relationship as a Redemption Peter Janney [Applause] okay great well very nice to be here very taken with what's taking place today and the things that have been said this is going to be a little bit of a different talk I'm not a journalist by

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different talk I'm not a journalist by trade I'm not a historian by trade I'm a clinical psychologist but I bring a wealth of what I would call intensive research to how this story unfolded because I was part of it indirectly and as most of you who have read the book know I pretty much come to the conclusion that my own father was part of the conspiracy to murder Mary Mayer in 1964 I want to just begin by just saying a couple of things about the study of history having spent a lot of time reading history books I think I personally have come to the conclusion that you know today we are still on the battlefield of memory in terms of what took

place in Dallas in 1963 and that means that history is always going to be revisionist to one degree or another the judgment of history is never set because history is ultimately a moving dialogue even today many historians are still fighting over for instance the American Revolution every piece of history therefore to one degree another ultimately is subjective because it comes through the mind of a particular historian and while historical accuracy and objectivity must always remain the historians Holy Grail it can own be approximated and never really consummated still there is much good historians can achieve particularly in

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historians can achieve particularly in exposing those facts that any society tends to hide about itself facts about wealth and poverty tyranny and lies and then of course assassination and murder the closest that we can come to exclusive objectivity is to report accurately all the subjectivity in any given situation and that requires scruple scrupulous honesty in reporting to past when we compared the government's self-proclaimed benevolence and devotion to democracy to its actual policies thereby exposing the hidden ideological pretenses that pervade our culture therefore in terms of telling our history we have to tell it ourselves it's an ongoing and never-ending struggle each generation has to general has to wrestle with a history of what came before and then ask whose interest does this history serve how does it advance a legacy it serves for instance the power of the peace movement in the late 1960s changed the entire national security apparatus including the CIA in the Pentagon we have to resist their military occupation of our minds and the minds of future generations now there are forces our culture that stand for denial and I don't mean just climate denial or the truth of indigenous people who have occupied this continent long before euro-americans arrived to conquer them but generations of denial which have created historical denial our national forgetting in denial is basically pathological from the psychologists

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pathological from the psychologists point of view because our systems our politics our media our culture they're totally out of balance our collective refusal to admit that the Vietnam War for instance was wrong and the anti-war peace movement was right is a very important example of that now a really good example of what I'm talking about is if we look at what is taking place in Germany today and how they have integrated the Holocaust into the fabric of their nation's history as filmmaker Michael Moore pointed out in his recent film where to invade next every day in Germany in every school they teach their young what their predecessors did they don't whitewash it they don't pretend it didn't happen they treat it as original sin a permanent mark on their collective German soul one for which they must always seek Redemption make reparation and most importantly never forget and they can't forget because outside of their homes on the sidewalks on the walls of the streets are little engravings that remind them of the Jewish families that used to live in those houses and who were taken away and killed local artists have installed around town little signs that say Jews forbidden signs from the 1930s to continue to remind today's generation in Germany that to be German isn't just about Beethoven and Bach but also about genocide and evil what would our signs look like if we were to honestly look back at the assassinations that took place in the 1960s what would our schools teach if we wanted to truly teach our young the whole story of what it means to be an American the first step in any

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American the first step in any psychological healing to be a better person and in a larger sense a better country is to stand up and honestly say who and what we are I am an American I live in a great country that was born in genocide and built on the back of slaves that's just the proof if there is one thing we should take from Germany it is the idea that it is to acknowledge your dark side come to terms with it and face it honestly thereby making amends for it that way you could free yourself of the past and evolve into something more whole and integrated they're becoming a better person a better nation and be a better fellow citizen for the all of those on planet Earth now in my exploration of the Cold War era specifically with the understanding of how the CIA operated given my father was in fact a high-level CIA official no other Cold War historian other than L Fletcher Prouty was the one who warned us that the greatest casualties of the Cold War had been the truth

and the pursuit of truth at no time in our history has the general public been so misled so betrayed and and so deceived as it was in the last 20th century so therein lies the cancerous tumor upon the soul of America the CIA's inception the entrance into the American landscape fundamentally altered not only the functioning of our government but our access to the real truth of what was actually really taking place simply put the CIA's reign has contaminated historical truth and while

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contaminated historical truth and while the dismantling of America's Republic didn't begin in Dallas in 1963 that day surely marked an unprecedented acceleration of the erosion of our democratic republic now the CIA was from its inception virtually unaccountable to any Authority it was subject to any little if any congressional oversight and that would increasingly haunt president Howard Truman and to some send even President Eisenhower both were troubled by the fact that the agency had a carte blanche get out of jail card free for anything it attempted this was sort of came out of the 1948 NSC meeting 10 to I think it's called you'll forgive me I get a little parched but remember that the late elder American Statesman George Kennan would publicly come out to deeply regret near the end of his life the power that had been given to the agency part of which he signed off on the get out of jail card free known as public plausible deniability was as Kenan told historic Gale historian John Lucas the greatest mistake I ever made in my life and in the mid-1970s Cannon reiterated that statement before a US Senate subcommittee and of course today it continues here's the statement of my friend John Kiriakou who I think most of you know was recently in the not-too-distant past put in prison for a couple of years this is what he says as late as this past March one of the things that most observers don't understand is that the CIA will do anything anything to survive all CIA officers are taught to lie they lie all

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officers are taught to lie they lie all the time about everything to everybody and they justify it by trying to convince themselves that they are doing it in the national interest for national security from my very first day in the CIA it was drilled into me as it is to every other employee that quote the primary mission is to protect the agency that was the mantra couple that with the CIA's ability to intercept today and take over virtually any communications device and you have a Frankenstein monster it's really hard to believe such an organization would resist a president who challenged it that goes for JFK as well as Donald Trump is it hard to believe that it would do so surreptitiously I don't think so says mr. Kuryakin now let me turn to Mary Pinchot Meyer most of you who are familiar with my book or this story know that this was a exceptional human being an incredibly beautiful woman who had a very significant influence not on just JFK but also initially her husband cord Meyer she was born in New York City in 1920 the Year women got the vote and she grew up in a family upon which there was quite a bit of wealth and privilege and she was encouraged to explore and become independent her father Amos Pinchot was the leader of the progressive wing of the Republican Party and he always worked toward industrial and labor reform he would become one of the founders along with Norman Thomas and Roger Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties Union always outspoken Amos

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Liberties Union always outspoken Amos was a champion of causes no matter what it might have cost him politically or socially Mary's mother the journalist Ruth Pickering was also born in New York City she was 20 years younger Ben Amos when she married him she attended Vassar College and Columbia University she too came from a family of courageous liberal thinkers she was the kind of rare woman who dared to define herself even back in the 1920s resisting the prescribed roles that most women found during that time playing she became very active in the woman suffrage movement and for years shared a house with a political socialists max Eastman and his sister crystal now let's fast-forward to February 1936 the young and beautiful Mary Pinchot is now 15 years old and already physically stunning and a beautiful young woman to behold in her teen years she was had at her beck and call the debutante balls of New York City and New York City's nightlife she hung out a lot at the ritz-carlton or the Waldorf Astoria Mary always seemed to emerge as the

belle of the ball her weekends were often filled with parties at New England's most elite prep schools places like St. Paul's Choate and Groton among them now while attending the winter festivities weekend in 1936 at Chowd in Wallingford Connecticut her date for that weekend was the young and dashing William Atwood whom she had been seriously dating since Christmas Atwood as we know would eventually become President Kennedy's ambassador to the West African country of Guinea he

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the West African country of Guinea he would also be at the heart of a Kennedy sanctioned secret mission in the fall of 1963 to explore the rapprochement with Fidel Castro behind the backs of the Pentagon and the CIA but in the winter of 1936 Atwood was the guy with a pretty estate at showed what Bill Atwood did not know that Saturday night in February of 1936 was that JFK having already graduated from Choate had decided to return for the Winterfest festivities weekend and attend the gala Saturday evening dance it was a black-tie tux event and we don't know excuse me what drove JFK back to Joad at that time that remains a mystery I mean when we look at this situation how far could a tomcat like the young JFK navigate the confines of a heavily chaperone New England prep school dance and what would a college boy he was still a freshman at Princeton then no less one with a parochial school function anyway but he returned unaccompanied he was a stag perhaps he thought the homecoming was unfamiliar to territory would be good for his self-confidence which had lagged since he'd been forced to take a medical leave of absence from his studies at Princeton whatever the force that drew him backward that evening or forward if we look at forces at work here it is it that's not known but something propelled him for during that winter festivities dance he would encounter Mary Pinchot for the very first time edging in his being an unforgettable moment gracious as she was when JFK kept cutting in on the dance floor without would sporadically running

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floor without would sporadically running upstairs to gargle Listerine because he had a very bad sore throat still no romantic interest on Mary's part took place at that time there were other men who would first cross her trajectory at would being one Peter Peter Jessup being another followed way by Bob Schwartz and then finally her husband Cord Meyer but the encounter between JFK and Mary in 1936 was for the both of them a major life event when we look to history to help us understand events and circumstances that shape personal lives as well as the life and fate of an entire country certain individuals seem to appear at the most extraordinary moments when the stakes could not be possibly higher now in post-world War two America with the new reality of what might it mean to live in the nuclear age there were two young very promising very well-positioned men who were emerging as potential leaders of the new era one of the fascinating elements of this era was that Barry Meyer would end up becoming the muse to both of them it's just here we have the July 1947 ish a Glamour magazine and in this magazine is a major feature article it was called ten young men who care here we just see young men who care but they were ranked in order of importance and the first two which were tied for first place were Cord Meyer on the left and John F Kennedy on the right now Cord Meyer was in many ways a wounded man just as at as

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in many ways a wounded man just as at as JFK was both in his temperament i-cord was fundamentally a poet and as one of teachers like to say said but when he exploded he blew like a half Gale at his early years cord was decidedly a pacifist his father feared the worse for his sensitive artistic stunt son as they prepared for World War two and as all his sons he had decided cord would be able to take the pressures of war the lease quote if any of them crack up under it he told one journalist it will be cord so in the early 1944 on July 22nd a Japanese grenade rolled into his foxhole exploding in his face and killing his sergeant cord lay mortally wounded contemplating death bleeding everywhere pieces of his teeth like half-eaten peanuts awash in his mouth in blood with horror cord realized he was blind still conscious he searched with one hand for his 45 caliber pistol to end his misery why had he not followed his conscience and refused refused military service Kiba moaned as he lay there dying cursing nation states average savagery and war as we

know cord lived and two years later he would write word winning short story called wave of Darkness which he articulated that night in that foxhole and this was his appeal for world peace as he emerged from the Second World War and in this short story there's a paragraph here that I want to

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there's a paragraph here that I want to read to you because it is fundamentally poignant to a level of who cord Meyer was and why like JFK for a while at least he really was a believer in world peace and what he wrote was this quote what if he should get out of his foxhole and explain the matter reasonably to both sides fellow human fellow human beings he would begin there are very few of us here who in private would kill a man for any reason whatsoever the fact that guns had been placed in our hands and some of us wear one uniform and somewhere the other is no excuse for the mass murder we are about to commit there are differences between us I know but none of them worth the death of one man most of us are not here by our own choice we were taken from our peaceful lives and told to fight for reasons we cannot understand surely we have more in common than that which temporarily separates us fathers go back to your children who are in need of you husbands go back to your young wives who cry in the night and count the anxious days farmers return to your fields where the grain rots and the house slides into ruin the only certain fruit of this insanity will be the rotting bodies upon which the Sun will impartially shine tomorrow let us throw down these guns that we hate with the morning we shall go together in charity and hope and build a new life and a new world following his convalescence Kord began seeing a lot of Mary Meyer they had known each other beforehand but they had never really dated seriously

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they had never really dated seriously and I think for cord mary became the roman candle who not only demanded and supported his vision of a world without war but also shared an emerging focus on how to convince the masses of its rightness and this was really what drew Mary Anne cord together cord became very interested in the new UN United Nations and that would it's Charter and nineteen charter meeting in 1945 in Scent in San Francisco but he knew it wasn't going to go far enough and that's when he got involved with something called the United world Federalist that really wanted to take the United Nations principle to a much higher level where they could monitor throughout the globe hotspots that were taking place intervene in an appropriate way and diffused the situation unfortunately this effort failed and in 1948 cord was seduced started to get seduced by Allen Dulles but he didn't eventually join the CIA until the early 1930s and it wasn't his first choice cord really wanted to be a writer and he could have easily been an outstanding writer but he did not have the courage in my opinion to take this dream and follow his own accord with it as he wrote in his diary if I had more faith in my creative talent I would write but he didn't and so in the early 1950s he was allowed himself to be seduced by Allen Dulles like many people in his generation and that's where the beginning of the end of that marriage and relationship took place they finally divorced in 1957

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place they finally divorced in 1957 and cord as we know went on to deeper and darker pursuits within the agency and eventually I think really just killed his soul it's very interesting that one of Mary Meyers close friends and Truett's wrote in her in her book later on in the 1980s that there was a dynamic that she came upon with the men who came out of World War Two and she wrote something very perceptive and I'm going to read it this is it quote confronted by the probability of their own deaths it seems to me that many of the most percipient men of my generation killed off those parts of themselves that were most vulnerable to pain and thus lost forever a delicacy of feeling upon which intimacy depends to a less tragic extent we women also had to harden ourselves and stood to lose with them the vulnerability that is one of the guardians of the human spirit I think you know one of the miss portions of the Kennedy era is that as we know now JFK had a lot of difficulty with emotional intimacy he had a lot of difficulty with women from a psychologists point of view he would have what I would call a bona fide sexual addiction but there was a clearing that was taking place and I

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clearing that was taking place and I think Jack's relationship with Mary Mayer was in fact a relationship of redemption and that's what I like to call it sometimes Mary understood that JFK's conflicted hunger as perhaps only a uniquely enlightened woman could she viewed some of his sexual wanderlust for what it was a symptom of his unresolved anger and hatred of the rejection that he had been forced to endure from an empty cold and distant mother and it was clear in my research and people that I talked to that in their relationship together Mary really laid down the law so to speak it was not a situation of anything-goes she demanded Jack's self exempt examination she demanded that he opened his eyes his heart his soul the core of his being to both the artifice and the reality of his existence including his sexual promiscuity she would have refused to allow him to hide behind his physical incapacity his sense of obligation to his father or the Kennedy family his fear of public ridicule or any indifference to such issues as civil rights and the dangers of the Cold War she would have taken him to task in a way that some part of him actually longed for knowing the emotional pain he would have to confront in order to reclaim himself Jack would have had to have had be willing to experience the grief and emotional and tendency to some to experience what Mary herself had faced with the loss of her son Michael

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faced with the loss of her son Michael you see Mary knew the drill the crashing surf of unbearable sorrow and what was required to survive it this was a woman who would have been once tender and firm with him yet demanding that he show up engaged and stop running I think for Jack Mary likely represented the hope of a lost love a magnetic magnetic romantic passion the kind of erotic chemistry he had once experienced with the woman in Arvada tempered by the same kind of no-bullshit heartfelt bond that he had shared with his departed sister Kathleen aware of Mary's multi-dimensional beauty and allure from across the room at one of the White House dinner dances in February 1962 Jack had leaned in and commented to his friend Ben Bradlee quote Mary would be rough to live with and according to Bradley this wasn't the first time he had made this comment and as Bradley noted and I agreed this was not the first time there wasn't any doubt that JFK's remark revealed something about the nature of his relationship with Mary there were undoubtedly moments when Mary was in fact rough to live with but something in Jack had been awakened by Mary and an entrance into his life something they kept him engaged and apparently wanting more such was the fire and hope not only of Love's Redemption but of a more clearly defined reclamation of himself and the kind of president he wanted to become JFK's closest advisor Kenny O'Donnell had confided in the late author author du Leo d'amour that Mary had been quite outspoken for instance and confrontational with when the

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and confrontational with when the president desaad was about to resume nuclear testing in April 1962 quote she openly challenged him to do something different not fall into the trap of getting in a pissing contest test with the Russians said Lee odham or to me in 1992 based on what O'Donnell had said to him according to d'amour a diol sometimes even feared Mary because of the power she had over Jack telling d'amour that the president would sometimes feverishly pace around the Oval Office when he wasn't able to get in touch with Mary but vulnerability isn't necessarily the sign of weakness very often it's the emerging strength of a healing heart crying out for connection Mary had a sir any serenity about her reflected Ben Bradlee in an interview with me in 2009 she was a serious person if she fell in love with somebody I suspect that person was really loved when we look at what other people have written about Mary I'm go to her her par Matt's groundbreaking 1983 biography of Jack and he had interviewed a close a confidential source I think it probably was Kenny O'Donnell but he said this about Mary quote he could talk in ways with her she understood and their trust was mutual when he was with her the rest of the world could go to hell he could laugh with her at the absurdity of all the things he saw around his center of power most striking toward the end of 1962 at the after the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis inside the White House Mary Meyer had become almost a part of the furniture in the words of White House Counsel Meir Feldman according to what he told author

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Feldman according to what he told author Nina Burleigh quote unlike some of the other women and man in the White House the President did not ask her to leave the room when he discussed business Bofur Lee so frequent was her proximity to the president and so obvious Kennedy's admiration for her that Feldman felt that he might make a good conduct conduit to the president's ear if and when it was unavailable to discuss matters of State with him in fact Mary's emerging presence in the White House was more than just a documented in the entry logs said Feldman again I'd walk out of the office all the time and I would see her in the Oval Office or over at the residence around 8:30 in the evening when the day was over I'd walk over to the residue since she'd be sitting there there wasn't any attempt to hide her the way there was with some of the other women just as fascinating was Mary's evolving position within the Kennedy White House itself the senior staff never seen she was never regarded as second-tier mention of her name even might be considered advantageous for employment in the appendant in the opinion of Arthur Schlesinger here's a memorandum this Schlessinger wrote to Kennedy at the end of 62 when they were discussing writing the history that they wanted written of the Bay of Pigs and Schlesinger saying look I know this historian Trimble Higgins but Mary Mayer knows are much better than I do and I'm sure you could get a clearer indication from her as to if you'd be suitable or not as we've talked about today the day June

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as we've talked about today the day June 10th 1963 was a major life event for JFK himself and probably for our country as well what we don't know much about was the fact of what happened that evening after he gave that speech the American University commencement address had become a watershed defining a moment in which this visionary president decided to take the world in a profoundly different direction it's breathtaking to be hold the kind of courage and leadership that our 35th president began to embrace that day and so I ask the question had the muse of Mary Meyer finally found its true object of transformation that evening of June 10th had also brought with it a small private celebration just before 8:00 p.m. at next to the last minute with Jackie away at Camp David JFK decided to stop by his friend Joe Allen's house in Georgetown opting to come quote just for a drink the president would stay for more than an hour as guests for all subs dinner party began to arrive you can imagine who was also there Mary Meyer was already there and I'm almost a certain JFK she knew she would be if as Joe also described it Jack was quote in a gay mood that early June June evening you can bet that Mary herself must have been ablaze and not just because of flowers in bloom everywhere or coaching her to smile on that day Jack had ventured to go where cord Meyer would never have gone her mission had become illuminated into her mosaic a subliminal peace song

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into her mosaic a subliminal peace song whose emerging though still faint melody had just premiered for all mankind earlier that day during cocktails in the also garden Mary sat with Jack on one side and ambassador bill Atwood her prep school beau and college beau on the other bill atwood would recall three eight years later that on that evening the three of them had turned to the enjoyable recollection of past events quote reminiscing about our old school days with Mary as his date at Choate and how Jack had quote happily recalled having cut in on them on the dance floor said Atwood it was hard at times like that to realize that he was President of the United States and it was impossible to imagine that inside of a year both of them would be murdered he and Alice and she in Georgetown okay I just been told I only have five minutes left that's unfortunate time flies when you're having fun what I wanted to say was the next part of my talk was and this will be posted was to talk about the focal points of the CIA that Allen Dulles arranged with Fletcher Prouty and to underscore the fact that there was a copycat assassination attempt on JFK on November 2nd in Chicago it was an exact replica of what happened in Dallas three weeks later and it was suppressed we never learned about what took place until the assassination record Review Board demanded that the Secret Service turn over the records and at that very

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turn over the records and at that very point The Secret Service destroyed all the records so that we never knew from The Secret Service point of view of what actually happened I also wanted to say that in my pursuit of this story to get to where I have gotten and well there will not be another edition I promise you I had to jump through a lot of Hoops and make a lot of sacrifices and I never could have really gotten to the bottom of who Lieutenant William Mitchell was and what his role was in the assassination of Mary had I not had some help from a very special person who came into my life who helped me since 2004 get to the bottom of how to look at this story and what was really going on so when we I won't spoil it by telling you the story I think it's a genuinely interesting read particularly the last two chapters of the third edition and that's where you will learn that there was a focal point office where William Mitchell work in the Pentagon and his boss which was lieutenant Ralph Heller Cruikshank was was part of the operation to take Mary out as was Mitchell I doubt if Mitchell knew of any of the other people on the team he had one job and that was to frame ray Crump which he attempted to do very professionally the next day but he failed because what they didn't count on was a dubby Roundtree the incredible african-american attorney who realized that mr. Trump was being railroaded in this case so finally when we procured the documents that we procured we were

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the documents that we procured we were able to realize that Mitchell's oath of office took place on June 11th in 1962 the same day of his Cornell University graduation and his ROTC graduation at Cornell he was absent he was in Suitland he had a used car salesman sign his oath of office because directly across the street in the suit suit I'm federal bearing was a secret office of the CIA where we believed he was getting inducted so to speak in terms of what his actual role would be when he went into the army so that is his oath of office there you can see that Mitchell is being sent to the Defense Intelligence Agency after swearing in a deposition that he had no connection with any kind of intelligence agency ever and here is his locator card showing that he arrived at the Defense Intelligence Agency so I want to just take I've been told I have one minute now I want to introduce you to the person who was just indispensable to me in figuring all of this out his name is Roger Charles he has had a near 30-year career as a journalist he's investigated such diverse subjects as the detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib he's a P board Peabody award-winning journalist he's the author of the definitive book on the Oklahoma City bombing and he is a whiz kid when it comes to looking at documents intelligent documents military documents and understanding what was really taking place and what Roger says you can read right there in terms at the very end of my book he puts his stamp of

[00:44:03 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRVUN7pw6Vw&t=2643s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRVUN7pw6Vw&t=2643s)

very end of my book he puts his stamp of approval on where this journey finally took to me and as Roger says he believes that it's pretty clear that mr. Mitchell was in some way connected to the CIA so Roger I wondered if you would just stand up and let people see you and yeah thank you [Applause] [Music]

END